Ap<u>pro</u>ved For Release 2004/02/04 : CIA-RDP67B00446R000300110016-0

Big Brother's Ears

Are Getting Littler

But They're Hearing More as Peeping And Eavesdropping Business Booms, Even in the Federal Government

By Ramon Geremia Washington Post Staff Writer

"JUST THINK of the convenience of this one," said the last line of the magazine; advertisement.

Above it was a drawing of a man with a sly, devilish look on his face. He was holding something ealled a: Telephone Monitor to his ear.

"Hear two-way conversations without picking up recciver," said the ad for this "new, private listening device," that "weighs only 11/4

According to the ad, "more and more of the electronic devices designed for military use are being made available for civilians. This ingenious (just 1/2 inch thick) unlt is one, and lngenious it ls. Just lay it against a telephone, put the plug in your ear, and you can hear and record a 2way conversation, clearly without touching or picking up the receiver.

"Pretty sly little gadget," says one version of the ad. "It fits in your pocket without a bulge."

And with just \$18.95 and a Diners Club card you can be the first in your neighborhood to have one,

That was in the January, 1964, edition of the Diners Club Magazine.

THIS IS only one of the! many, many clever little gadgets you can use to become your own private car. You too can eavesdrop electronically on your friends and neighbors.

These devices are easy to come by, so easy, ln fact, that two congressional subcommittees are conducting inquiries into violations of privacy by the unrestricted sale of electronic snooping devices. Approved

Congress passed a law in ment. 1934 providing stiff penalties Fens from Federal prosecution.

bringing attention to some of the devices it uses.

Most Government cies, however, have a written policy which prohibits retoring or listening in on phone calls without advance notification and approval.

the purchase, rent, leasing or borrowing of electronic or mechanical devices.

But the General Services Administration lists a host of such devices in its catalogue, Government agencies which ostensibly do not allow them. One advertised GSA item Is a "telephone adaptor for monitoring phone calls without a beep."

THE CONGRESSIONAL committees concerned with the proliferation of snooping devices are the Senate Judiclary subcommittee on administrative practices, headed by Sen. Edward V. Long (D. Mo.) and the special House government operations subcommittee: Long's committee will open invasion of privacy hearings next Thurs-

Bernard Fensterwald, counsel for the Senate subcommittee, said that last fall a detailed, five-page questionnaire concerning invasion of privacy was sent to 34 Government agencies.

Federal law on invasion of peepholes, hidden recorders, privacy is almost non-exist- and ministure transmitters sions of the more sophistical ent and those state laws are the primary snooping ed gear include; which exist are frequently practices used in the Govern- An International-Police

and the military. At a

committees is those devices "little optical gem," accordwhich are available not only ing to its maker, is "made in cording, transcribing, moni- to Government agencies but Spain for use in Interpol, the

For one thing, Federal tion." The same holds true for Communications Commission regulations prohibit recording any telephone conversation without using a beeping device.

AND FURTHER, the teleand they are available to shone directory has a paragraph which says that if you hear a short "beep" tone about every, 15 seconds, the conversation is being record-

> "This signal is provided by the Telephone Company for your protection," says the phone book. "Use of a recorder without recorder connector equipment containing a tone-warning device is contrary to the Company's tar-iffs and not permitted."

The devices generally available to the public frequently are not so sophisticated as the expensive, intricate superprofessional in vestigator kits which run into thouwill do.

But even the highly sophislicated gear is available to anyone who has the money.

The less expensive ver-

• An, "International-Police Room Probe" that "sets Into Fensterwald said the sub- wail-sees all!" according to for wiretapping, but wiretap- committee has not so far, advertisements. This item ping is practiced with it ipun-concerned itself with the gives 172 degree-wide vision, ity and virtual immunity snooping devices used by the is only as round as your fin-One reason is that the Government's security agen- ger, tucks into your pocket Government is hesitant about cies such as the FBI, CIA easily, is 34 Inch across, telescopes out from one to 5 A major concern of the inches and costs \$8.95. This also to the public at large. international police organiza-

> • The International Audio-Wall Probe which you "just piace against any wall," and it will pick up sounds, voices in the next room," according to its ads. "This solid state space-age device has just been made available to the public from missile rescarch, and i development," says the blurb. It welghs only 6 ounces and with it "you can detect the faintest of voices and sounds in the next room -good for knowing what the kids are doing without their realizing it." di

· A miniature device which records only when it is activated by volce. You also eliminate give-away fumbling with switches because it works "without you touching a thing," according to a newspaper ad.

• Ā wristwatch microphone with a tiny wire that runs up under your sleeve to; a minlature recorder. well-dressed man also has his choice of a tie-clasp, cuff link or fountain pen microphone which cost \$24.95 each.

East Release 2004/02/04 : CIA-RDP67B00446R000300110016 Continued

Approved For Release 2004/02/04: CIA-RDP67B00446R000300110016-0

• An "executive styled" ball point pen desk set which contains a hidden, miniature microphone in its base "for rclaxed office dictation or discreet recording." This, by the way, is another one of the items which can be acquired through the GSA eatalogue.

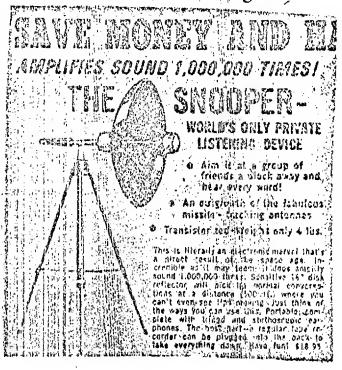
· An attache case that is really a secret recorder "with life-like fidelity." This item "records clearly with case shut in vertical or horizontal position," and has a "buttondown writing desk pad," which conceals the recorder even when the case is

opened.

• The Snooper which "amplifies sound 1,000,000 times," according to its advertising copy in magazines and newspapers. This item weighs four pounds, comes with a tripod and, as the ads say, you can "aim it at a group of friends a block

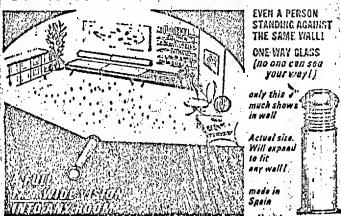
away and hear every word."

It appears that Cervantes knew what he was talking about. Walls DO have ears. Super-Duper Snoopers Are All in the Vogue



And Wide-Angle Lens For Peeping Toms

International-Police Room Probe SETS INTO WALL-SEES AL



For the Nosy Who Want Souped Up Ears

